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COUNTY BOROUGH OF PRESTON



REPORT
1960

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

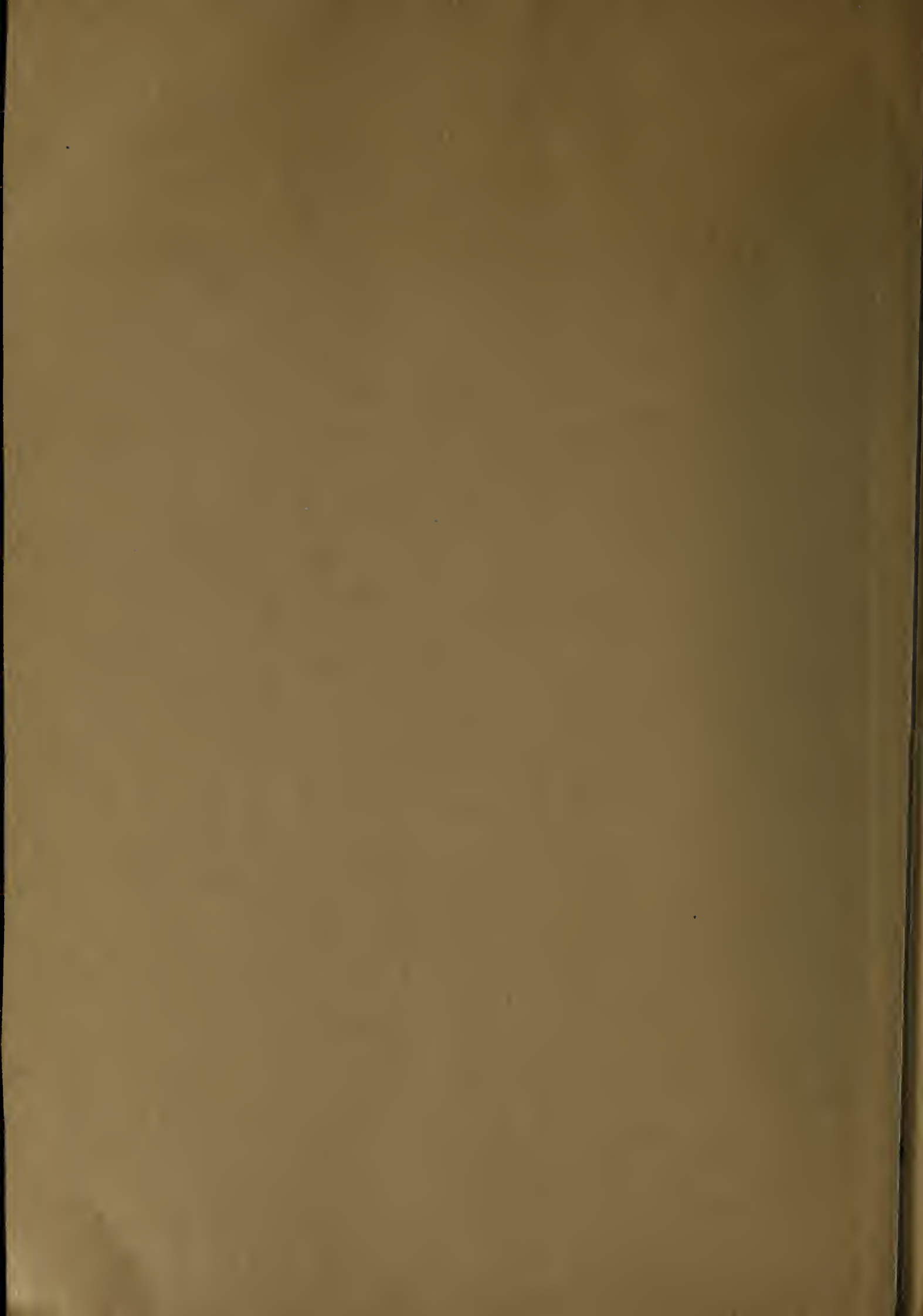


Table 81.
Animals passing through market.

	1960	1959	1958	1957
Attested and Non-Attested Cattle	8,352	7,911	8,809	8,216
Fat Cattle	17,748	16,583	16,513	16,629
Sheep	41,757	34,880	26,890	24,978
Calves	16,981	15,047	13,445	13,287
Fat Pigs	21,076	29,829	36,357	31,229
Store Pigs	22,371	27,010	43,357	37,400
Horses	326	305	336	457

The number of cattle passing through the market has remained comparatively steady over the last few years. Sheep have gone up in numbers, the vast majority of them being fat sheep for slaughter. Calves show a gradual increase, but the number of pigs has fluctuated, due to factors such as price variations and cancellation of sales owing to various Infected and Controlled Areas Orders.

Port Health Administration.

Port Health District.

The Port Health District of Preston extends from Formby Point on the south to a point 2,350 yards south of the Victoria Pier, South Shore, Blackpool, on the north. The dock, which is 3,200 feet long by 600 feet wide, covers 40 acres and is approached by the entrance basin, 850 feet long by 300 feet wide, an area of $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

The communicating locks are 550 feet long and 66 feet wide, with a depth of 29 feet 6 inches at high water ordinary spring tide. The dock is situated within the county borough and is about 16 miles along the River Ribble from the sea.

The quays are over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. There are 170 acres of storage ground and 61,525 superficial yards of covered floor space.

Easy access by road and rail facilitates cargo handling.

Two ships-chandlers boarded a vessel arriving from a foreign port before she had been cleared from control under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952; the appropriate signal was being flown at the time. Both men were successfully prosecuted and fined a sum of £5 each.

The first container service between Eire and England was commenced in the summer, the vessels trading between Greenore and Preston, a variety of goods were carried and foodstuffs arrived in good condition.

An increase in the number of sailings from Northern Ireland was made, by using an additional ship, to cope with the increased trade.

One vessel was encountered with a Deratting Exemption Certificate issued at a non-approved port in Finland. The Ministry of Health were notified.

The influx of stowaways from the West Indies reached twenty in the early part of the year. Due to a variety of circumstances there were no stowaways after March.

A start was made on the modernisation of the dock drainage system. A main drain was diverted from a culvert which enters the river and connected to a town sewer.

The Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations, 1960, came into operation on the first of November, 1960, with the exception of three regulations which follow six months later.

A useful control of the hygienic handling of foodstuffs in the Port is now in force.

Vessels, warehouses and vehicles must be in a clean condition. Workers and their clothing must be clean when in contact with food and men must not be handling food if infected in a way likely to cause food poisoning. The condition of buildings, sanitation and washing facilities are also controlled.

The majority of food entering Preston is protected by its packing, but washing facilities have been required at the banana ripening shed.

Co-operation by Her Majesty's Customs' Officers, the Trinity House Pilots, the officials and staff of the Ribble Navigation and Preston Dock Undertaking, the shipping agents and others who have been contacted about various matters, has assisted in the smooth working of the Port Health Service.

Section I — Staff.

Table 82.				
Staff				
Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointment held
J. S. G. Burnett ...	Port Medical Officer	1.2.49	M.D., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health
R. G. Murray ...	Deputy Port Medical Officer	12.5.60	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health
N. M. Sampson ...	Port Health Inspector	3.3.58	Cert. R.S.I. Dip. Insp. Meat and Food	District Public Health Inspector
F. Yates ...	Deputy Port Health Inspector	17.7.55	Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat and Food	Public Health Inspector

ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
 Health Department, Municipal Building, Preston.
Telephone No. — Preston 4881.

PRIVATE ADDRESS :
 Brook House, 252 Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston.
Telephone No. — Preston 77784.

Section II—Amount of Shipping entering the district during the year.

Table 83.					
Ships entering the district during the year.					
Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspectors	
Foreign ports ...	384	284,784	27	377	—
Coastwise	1,870	1,211,893	2	197	2
Total ...	2,254	1,496,680	29	574	2

A large increase in the timber trade brought more vessels to Preston, also the new sulphur import from France for local manufacturing purposes.

Character of Shipping and Trade during the year.

Passenger Traffic		Number of passengers INWARDS...	...	...	4,012
		Number of passengers OUTWARDS	...	...	4,120
Passengers to and from foreign ports:—			Foreign ports		Irish Ferry service
Passengers in:—					
	Alien	...	...	32	3,899
	British	...	...	81	
Passengers out:—					
	Alien	...	...	20	4,092
	British	...	...	8	
Cargo Traffic.					
Principal Imports.					
Asphalt rock, bacon, bananas, bitumen, canned goods, china clay, citrus fruits, cloth goods, coconuts, confectionery, eggs, fertiliser, fish, fuel oils, grain, hardboard, hides, lard, meat, milk, milk products, nuts, nut oils, petroleum, plasterboard, potatoes, poultry, potash, rubber, scrap iron, shell grit, soya meal, starch, stone, styromonomer, sulphur, timber, turf, vehicles, wax, wood pulp.					
Principal Exports.					
Barbed wire, canned goods, cloth goods, coal, coke, cotton, fruit, fuel oils, furniture, iron and steel, machinery, nut oil, pitch, radio equipment, tar, vehicles.					
Total imports	1959		996,600 tons.		
Total exports	1959		581,019 tons.		
Total imports	1960		1,075,538 tons.		
Total exports	1960		663,888 tons.		
Principal ports from which ships arrive —					
Foreign —					
North America :	Vancouver, St. John N.B., Los Angeles, New York, Halifax, N.S., Chatham N.E., Miramichii.				
Antilles :	Curaco, Kingstown, Martinique, Port Castries, Port of Spain, Roseau, St. George, Vieux Fort.				
Belgium :	Antwerp.				
Brazil :	Tutoya, Fortaleza, Belem.				
Denmark :	Copenhagen, Frederiksund, Koge.				
Finland :	Helsingfors, Kemi, Kotka, Mantyluoto, Oulo, Pori, Rauma, Turku, Vasa.				
France :	Bayonne, Bordeaux, Brest, Cette, Dieppe, Nantes, Rouen, Sables d'Olonne.				
Germany :	Bremen, Hamburg, Wismar.				
Holland :	Amsterdam, Appingedam, Delfzyl, Groningen, Rotterdam, Ymuiden, Zaarndam.				
Norway :	Aalesund, Arendal, Bergen, Drammen, Fredrikstad, Haugesund, Kragero, Kristiansund, N., Larvick, Lousnes, Namsos, Narvik, Oplo, Oslo, Porsgrunn, Skien, Stavanger, Tofte, Tredestrand, Tromso, Trondheim.				
Poland :	Gdansk, Gdynia, Stettin.				
Sweden :	Domsjo, Gefle, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Helsingborg, Hernosand, Hudiksvall, Karlsborg, Karlshamm, Karlstad, Malmo, Norrkoping, Oskarshamm, Pitea, Sundsvall, Westervick.				
U.S.S.R. :	Archangel, Inarka, Kaliningrad, Leningrad, Mesane, Onega, Tallin.				
Yugoslavia :	Split.				
British Isles —					
Belfast, Carrickfergus, Cork, Coryton, Dublin, Dundalk, Fawley, Fowey, Greenore, Heysham, Larne, Liverpool, Londonderry, Manchester, Par, Penmaenmawr, Plymouth, Ramsey, Swansea.					

There was little change in cargoes arriving in the port, but bulk sulphur is now imported for local manufacturing purposes.

Constant watch was maintained over the foodstuffs on the ferry and container services with Northern Ireland. There was a large increase in the amount of timber imported, to replenish stocks used in the dry weather the previous year.

Section IV — Inland Barge Traffic.

There is no inland barge traffic from or to the Port of Preston.

Section V — Water Supply.

1. Source of supply for —

(a) THE DISTRICT.

The district receives its water from the Preston and District Water Board mains, and is an upland surface water derived from the gathering grounds in the Forest of Bowland. The water is of good quality, well suited for drinking and domestic purposes.

(b) SHIPPING.

Shipping is supplied with water from the district supply by means of a hose from a shore hydrant.

2. Reports of Tests for Contamination.

Samples are taken from taps and hydrants on the district and tanks, drinking water taps and galley taps on board ships, as a routine procedure and otherwise when necessary.

Table 85.
Water Samples.

From	Type	Number	Results	
			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Vessels	Bacteriological ...	32	18	14
Vessels	Chemical	—	—	—
Dock Estate ...	Bacteriological ...	18	17	1
Dock Estate ...	Chemical	2	2	—
		52	37	15

Unsatisfactory bacteriological results of water taken from the drinking tanks of vessels entering the port were 44% of the samples obtained from snips. This high proportion of contamination indicates the need for constant vigilance and control of ships' drinking water. Storage of drinking water in a peak tank is still a deprecated practice. The reason for contamination is not always apparent, but the owners or Masters have been informed when an unsatisfactory sample was taken and advice given to prevent future contamination.

The supply of water to shipping is under the direct control of the Port Authority who employ a special staff for this purpose. All precautions necessary to prevent contamination of hoses and hydrants are taken.

There are no water boats in the Port of Preston.

Section VI — Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas.

The list of infected areas is prepared from, and amended as necessary, with details obtained from the World Health Organisation in the Weekly Epidemiological Record and is drawn up in the form of the list supplied. Copies of the list are supplied to the Trinity House Pilotage Office, Preston, and H.M. Waterguards Office, Preston.

2. Radio Messages.

Preston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

3. Notification otherwise than by Radio.

The Port Medical Officer is notified by telephone of any untoward circumstances on board an incoming vessel after such details have been passed to the Port Authority's barge at Lytham.

Cases of sickness are dealt with by the Boarding Medical Officer.

4. Mooring Stations.

By agreement with the Port Authority arrangements exist for the breasting off of any ship at the discharging berth allocated, where such action is considered necessary by the Port Medical Officer. This is done by placing one of the barges of about 20 feet beam which are always available between the vessel and the quay, whilst the vessel is subjected to the prescribed measures.

This arrangement obviates the necessity of moving the vessel from one berth to another and facilitates the discharge of her cargo whether during or when freed from control.

5. Arrangements for —

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases.

All cases of infectious diseases other than small pox are removed to the Isolation Hospital, Deepdale, Preston.

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.

Surveillance is carried out as suggested in Section 18(2) and Section 37 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

(c) Cleansing and Disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

The cleansing and disinfection of ships is carried out under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector. Clothing, bedding, etc., are removed in the Health Department's disinfection vehicles to the Disinfection Station at Argyll Road for steam disinfection.

Arrangements are also in existence for persons to be cleansed and disinfested at Cuttle Street Clinic and Ellen Street Cleansing Station and for clothing to be disinfested at Argyll Road Disinfestation Station.

Section VII — Smallpox.

(1) The reception of smallpox cases into hospital is in the hands of the Regional Hospital Board who advise as to which hospital is available for such purpose. Normally, Ainsworth Hospital, Bury, is retained as the first regional hospital to admit cases of smallpox.

(2) Smallpox cases would be removed by ambulance belonging to Preston Corporation. The vaccinal state of the crews of these ambulances is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Preston.

(3) SMALLPOX CONSULTANTS :

Dr. C. Metcalfe Brown, Town Hall, Manchester.
Central 3377 and Ringway 4273.

Dr. E. R. Peirce, 8 Grosvenor Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.
Garston 1236.

Professor A. B. Semple, Health Department, Hatton Garden,
Liverpool, 3.
Central 8433 and Gateacre 2081.

(4) Facilities for the laboratory diagnosis of smallpox are available at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine under the direction of Professor Downie.

Section VIII — Venereal Disease.

Leaflets giving the undermentioned information as to location, days and hours of available facilities are distributed by the inspectors when vessels are visited :

“The Venereal Disease Clinic at the Preston Royal Infirmary is open at the following times :

Tuesday	...	5 p.m.— 7 p.m.	Women
Wednesday		5 p.m.— 7 p.m.	Men.
Thursday	...	2 p.m.— 4 p.m.	Women.
Friday	...	5 p.m.— 7 p.m.	Men.

Male patients from ships likely to sail before the next male clinic will also be seen on Tuesdays or Thursdays.”

A supply of glass slides has been issued to ships regularly using the port so that where a suspicion of the disease arises at sea a smear can be made at once and taken to the clinic when the ship arrives in Preston.

Forty seamen attended for treatment at the clinic for the first time during the year.

Section IX — Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

Table 86.
Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of Ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships ...	Chickenpox	Nil	1	1
	Tuber- culosis	Nil	1	1

No case or suspected case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus or relapsing fever occurred during the year.

The case of pulmonary tuberculosis was on one of the port dredgers. All the other members of the crew were examined at the chest clinic as contacts and no other case was found. Disinfection of cabin, effects and shore residence was carried out.

The Master of a ferry went sick with chickenpox probably caught from his infected son while on leave.

Section X — Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

No case of malaria occurred during the year.

Section XI — Measures taken against ships with or suspected for plague.

No ship infected with or suspected of carrying plague arrived during the year. In the event of such an occurrence, action in accordance with the measures outlined in Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, would be pursued.

Section XII — Measures against Rodents in ships from foreign ports.

(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS.

All foreign-going vessels are inspected in the following sequence.

- (a) Vessels from infected ports.
- (b) Vessels from non-infected foreign ports.
- (c) Foreign-going vessels that have arrived from another port in the British Isles.

A rodent operator sets traps on vessels where evidence of rats is found and revisits these and other vessels from foreign ports while cargo is being discharged.

(2) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RODENTS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RODENT PLAGUE.

Rodents caught are placed in muslin bags, dipped in paraffin, labelled and despatched to the Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

During the year nine rats from vessels were forwarded for examination. One body was found to have a typhimurium infection. The rat was caught on a vessel from the West Indies and no other rat life was found on board.

(3) ARRANGEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT FOR DERATTING SHIPS.

The deratting of vessels prior to the issue of Deratting Certificates may be effected with hydrogen cyanide or sodium fluoroacetate.

The following contractors have intimated their willingness to operate in the port :—

- Associated Fumigators (Northern) Ltd., Liverpool.
- Croftbank Chemical Co. Ltd., Oldham.
- Disinfestation Ltd., Birkenhead.
- Hivey Fumigation Co. Ltd., Liverpool.
- Irlam Insecticides, Liverpool.

(4) PROGRESS IN THE RAT-PROOFING OF SHIPS.

Rat-proofing was found in good condition on vessels and a higher standard is observed each year as old vessels are scrapped.

Table 87. Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.									
Category									Number
Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Species not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rats sent for examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rats infected with plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Following a Warfarin treatment, 51 black rats were recovered from a vessel at the breaking up yard before demolition began. The vessel had traded regularly with West Africa.

The methodical searching of both dock estate and vessels by the Rodent Operator has resulted in a very great reduction of rodent life and great credit is due to him for this.

Table 88.						
Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.						
No. of Deratting Certificates issued.					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with		After trapping	After poisoning	Total		
H.C.N.	Other fumigant					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
—	—	—	—	—	77	77

Section XIII—Inspection of Ships for Nuisances.

Table 89.
Inspections of Ships for Nuisances.

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served		Defects Remedied
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Total number of ships inspected ... 574			
The following defects were found :—			
Vermin 18	—		13
Accommodation and fittings defective 13	—		13
Heating, lighting, ventilation defective 11	—		11
Washplaces and fittings defective ... 5	—		4
Sanitary accommodation defective ... 15	—	64	12
Food stores, preparation places and fittings defective 22	—		22
Drinking water system defective ... 12	—		8
Refuse accumulations... .. 4	—		4
Smoke emissions 12	—		12
Miscellaneous nuisances 2	—		2
Total 114	—	64	101

Sixty-four vessels were found to have 114 defects or nuisances, all were remedied except 13. Forty-four of these defects occurred on three old large tramp vessels. Twenty-five were remedied and the remainder were to be done when the vessels proceeded to dry dock from Preston.

New tonnage has good accommodation and continually the trend is towards better living quarters and fewer faults.

Section XIV — Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934-1948.

Mussel gathering is controlled by the Preston (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1923.

A sample of cockles revealed that the estuary is still heavily sewage contaminated.

Section XV — Medical Inspection of Aliens.

Preston is not approved for the landing of aliens, but as will be seen from Table C, 32 aliens arrived from foreign ports and 20 aliens departed from Preston.

Section XVI — Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Arrangements for the interment of a deceased member of the crew of any vessel is the concern of the shipping agent and the following procedure would be adopted in the event of a death from infectious disease. The Superintendent of Mercantile Marine acting for the Ministry of Transport would be notified immediately. The body would be removed by the Health Department staff to the mortuary of the Preston Isolation Hospital for the purpose of local enquiry and verification of the cause of death.

Food Inspection.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925-1948.

Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations, 1960.

Colouring Matter in Food Regulations, 1957.

Antioxidant in Food Regulations, 1958.

Imported food consisted mainly of the following types :—

Apples, bacon, bananas, blackberries, canned meats, canned milks and creams, canned fruits and fishes, cheese, citrus fruits, coconuts, confectionery, eggs, frozen eggs, frozen milk, herrings, ice cream, ice lollies, ice cream powder, lard, limes, maize, meat, milk powder, nuts, potatoes, poultry, sausage, wheat.

Sixty-eight samples of food were taken during the year, 43 were forwarded to the Public Analyst.

<i>Type of Food</i>		<i>From</i>	<i>Result</i>
9 samples fresh grapefruit	...	British West Indies	Genuine
3 samples fresh oranges	...	British West Indies	Genuine
2 samples fresh limes	...	British West Indies	Genuine
2 samples fresh oranges	...	South Africa	Genuine
4 samples canned fruit salad	...	Northern Ireland	2 Genuine, and 2 wrongly labelled
1 sample canned strawberries	...	Northern Ireland	Genuine
1 sample canned apples	...	Northern Ireland	Genuine

<i>Type of Food</i>	<i>From</i>			<i>Result</i>
4 samples canned pears ...	Northern Ireland	...	...	Genuine
2 samples canned peaches ...	Northern Ireland	...	...	Genuine
2 samples canned grapefruit ...	British West Indies	...	...	Genuine
3 samples canned rice pudding ...	Northern Ireland	...	...	Genuine
1 sample canned dairy cream ...	Northern Ireland	...	...	Genuine
1 sample canned chopped ham loaf	Northern Ireland	...	...	Genuine
1 sample canned steak fillet ...	Northern Ireland	...	...	Also contained vegetables and gravy
1 sample canned stewed steak ...	Northern Ireland	...	...	Genuine
1 sample canned beef ...	Eire	...	...	Genuine
1 sample milk chocolate couvatura	Eire	...	...	Genuine
1 sample chocolate fruit crunch	Eire	...	...	Genuine
1 sample chocolate cream cups ...	Eire	...	...	Genuine
1 sample ground sweet almonds...	United States of America	...	...	Genuine

Three bottles of tonic water were given to the Port Health Inspector for his observations by the Master of a foreign ship. They had been purchased when the vessel was previously in this country. The Public Analyst found a quantity of dust in two bottles; a bristle from the washing machine was found by the Inspector in the third bottle.

Twenty-five samples were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Preston for bacteriological examination.

Satisfactory samples comprised :

- 1 sample canned steak fillets
- 1 sample canned stewed steak
- 12 samples canned rice pudding
- 1 sample canned dairy cream
- 2 samples ice cream mix
- 6 samples frozen whole hen egg
- 1 sample canned beef

A sample of fine ground sweet almonds had a plate count at 37°C of 500,000 orgs/gr. and at 22°C of 200,000 orgs/gr. and *B. coli* (type 1) faecal present in 0.1 gram. Follow up samples taken by the local authority at destination were found to be satisfactory.

Improvements in cleanliness were required by the local authority concerned at the factory where the goods were packed before shipment. A higher standard was obtained and has been maintained.

The following unsound foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered :—

			T.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Bananas	...	...	298	11	2	17
Canned fruit	...	...	—	1	3	18½
Total	...	...	298	13	2	7½

No infringements of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations regarding official certificates occurred.

From a great variety of food entering the port little was found to be unfit for human consumption, or not complying with legislation in force.

A consignment of canned fruits required 100% sorting following transit damage due to bad weather. Burst and severely crushed cans were taken and destroyed ; unsaleable crushed cans were directed to canteen use.

The high standards of quality, packing and transit speed have paid high dividends to importers of foodstuffs. The damage, wasting and perishing have been remarkably low.

The container service from Eire via Greenore has carried a variety of foodstuffs and the food, containers and organisation have been of a high standard

